©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at

Nachr. entomol. Ver. Apollo, Frankfurt, N.F. **13 (2a)**: *157–163 – September 1992* 157
ISSN 0723–9912

Antheraea (Antheraea) platessa ROTHSCHILD 1903: The correct name for *Antheraea jana* auctorum, nec STOLL 1782 (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

by

Wolfgang A. NÄSSIG[1]

Abstract: The name *Attacus jana* STOLL 1782 was misinterpreted for at least a century. STOLL's illustration figures a specimen of the complex of species that includes *Antheraea frithi* MOORE 1858, *A. celebensis* WATSON 1915, and related taxa, but clearly not the species called "*jana*" by authors. The correct name for the latter taxon is *Antheraea (Antheraea) platessa* ROTHSCHILD 1903, stat. rev. (nec *platesse*, misspelling), with *fusca* ROTHSCHILD 1903 (lectotype ♀ designated) in synonymy (n. syn.).

Antheraea (Antheraea) platessa ROTHSCHILD 1903: der gültige Name für *Antheraea jana* auctorum, nec STOLL 1782 (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

Zusammenfassung: Der Name *Attacus jana* STOLL 1782 wurde für über ein Jahrhundert fehlinterpretiert. STOLLs Abbildung zeigt einen Falter aus der Gruppe von Arten um *Antheraea (A.) frithi* MOORE 1858 und *A. (A.) celebensis* WATSON 1915, nicht jedoch die Art, die von späteren Autoren „*jana*" genannt wurde. Der gültige Name für diese Art ist *Antheraea (Antheraea) platessa* ROTHSCHILD 1903, stat. rev. (nicht *platesse*, falsche sekundäre Schreibweise), Typenfundort Burma, mit *fusca* ROTHSCHILD 1903 (Typenfundort Borneo, Lectotyp ♀ designiert) in Synonymie (n. syn.). Die echte *A. (A.) jana* STOLL tritt innerhalb der *frithi/celebensis*-Gruppe neu in die Synonymie ein; eine Klärung der Verhältnisse dort sei einer späteren Revision vorbehalten.

---

[1]: 24th contribution to the knowledge of the Saturniidae.

Received: 29/x/1991

©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at

Introduction

During studies on the Sumatran species of the family Saturniidae in preparation of the family treatment in the series "Heterocera Sumatrana" (HS), the author discussed several taxonomic problems with his colleagues and friends Jeremy D. HOLLOWAY, London (CAB International Institute of Entomology), Richard S. PEIGLER, Denver (Denver Museum of Natural History), and especially Claude LEMAIRE, Gordes, France. During these discussions, especially during studies of the illustration by STOLL (1782) (Fig. 1), conducted by C. LEMAIRE and the author, the identity of the nominal taxon *jana* STOLL 1782 turned out to be misinterpreted. The results of these studies are published here prior to the family treatment within the "Heterocera Sumatrana" series to make the results of the studies available for other workers. Publication of the HS series is currently delayed by financial limitations.

The author grateful acknowledges the kind support by and discussion with Jeremy D. HOLLOWAY, Claude LEMAIRE, Richard S. PEIGLER and the coauthors of the forthcoming HS treatment, Rudolf E. J. LAMPE and Stefan KAGER, Nürnberg. The manuscript was critically reviewed by Konrad FIEDLER, Würzburg, and Richard S. PEIGLER. David GOODGER, The Natural History Museum, London, kindly took photographs of the types.

Antheraea (Antheraea) platessa ROTHSCHILD 1903, **stat. nov.**
(= *jana* auctorum, nec STOLL 1782)
Antheraea jana platessa ROTHSCHILD 1903, Novit. Zool. **10:** 311.

Holotype (by monotypy) ♂ in The Natural History Museum (BMNH), London (examined) (Fig. 2).
locus typicus: Burma

Antheraea jana platesse [sic] ROTHSCHILD: SCHÜSSLER (1933: 179), misspelling
(This misspelling is also widely in use in museum catalogues.)

Synonym: *fusca* ROTHSCHILD 1903, Novit. Zool. **10:** 311, **n. syn.**
Syntypes (2 ♀♀[2]) in BMNH, London (examined)
The female figured here (Fig. 3) is herewith **designated as lectotype.**
locus typicus: Borneo

---

[2]: There is only one specimen in BMNH labelled as a syntype; this one is figured here and designated lectotype; it already has an old handwritten type label. There are two more ♀♀ in BMNH which might be syntypes (making a total of 3 ♀♀, although ROTHSCHILD explicitly wrote of only 2 ♀♀); as both of them are not labelled as such, I did not decide which one to be the second syntype.

©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at

Antheraea jana fusca ROTHSCHILD: ALLEN (1981: 117); LAMPE (1984: 11, 1985: 13)
Antheraea jana CRAMER [sic]: BARLOW (1982: 50)
Antheraea jana STOLL: HOLLOWAY (1987: 101); PINRATANA & LAMPE (1990: 17); PAUKSTADT & PAUKSTADT (1991: 20).

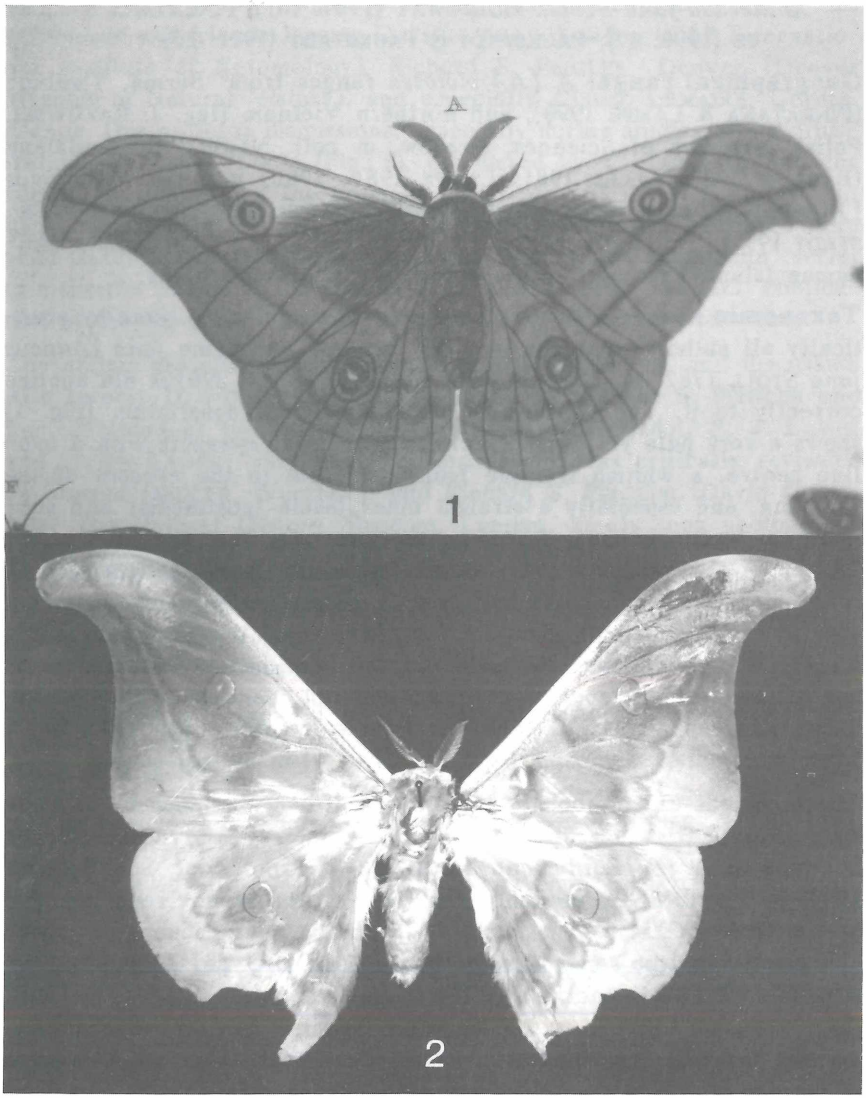
Geographical range: *A. (A.) platessa* ranges from[3] Burma, Thailand (PINRATANA & LAMPE 1990), and northern Vietnam (leg. J. RAZOWSKI, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, in coll. NÄSSIG) to Sundaland (BARLOW 1982; ALLEN 1981; LAMPE 1984, 1985) and the Philippines (TREADAWAY, pers. comm.) and possibly Sulawesi (PAUKSTADT & PAUKSTADT 1991). The status of the closely related *A. (A.) andamana* (Andaman Islands) remains to be proven, see taxonomic notes.

Taxonomic notes: Although this species was called *A. jana* by practically all authors since the late 19th century, the name *jana* (*Attacus jana* STOLL 1782, in CRAMER, Uitl. Kap. **4:** 220, pl. 396) is not applied correctly to it. The painting in STOLL's original description (Fig. 1) shows a very pale yellowish specimen with large eyespots with a hyaline centre, a whitish triangle from the costa to the eyespot of the forewing, and especially a straight outer fascia (postmedial and submarginal fascia obviously fused) on the forewing; what has been called "*A. jana*" always has a wavy outer fascia (at least the postmedial, sometimes also the submarginal fascia). (The extension of the apical spot is variable in both groups.) STOLL's type of *A. jana* is probably lost (type locality: Java). Nevertheless, this specimen is clearly a member of the *frithi/celebensis* complex and not identical with *platessa*. Contrasting specimens like the one figured by STOLL are rare, but I have two similar specimens from Bali (Fig. 4) in my collection.

The incorrect use of the name *jana* was already assumed by HOLLOWAY (1987). His suggestion to maintain stability and designate the holotype of *A. (A.) andamana* MOORE 1877 (Proc. Zool. Soc. London **1877:** 602; in BMNH) as neotype of *jana* STOLL is not recommended by the Code (ICZN 1985, Article 75 (d) (5)): a neotype must, if possible, come from the same locality as the lost holotype. Therefore, regrettably, the traditional use of the name *jana* must be changed. Further, it seems likely that the Andaman species *A. (A.) andamana* is distinct from the continental *platessa;* the female type of *Antheraea frithi insularis* WATSON 1914 (Ann. Rep. Trans. Manchester Entomol.

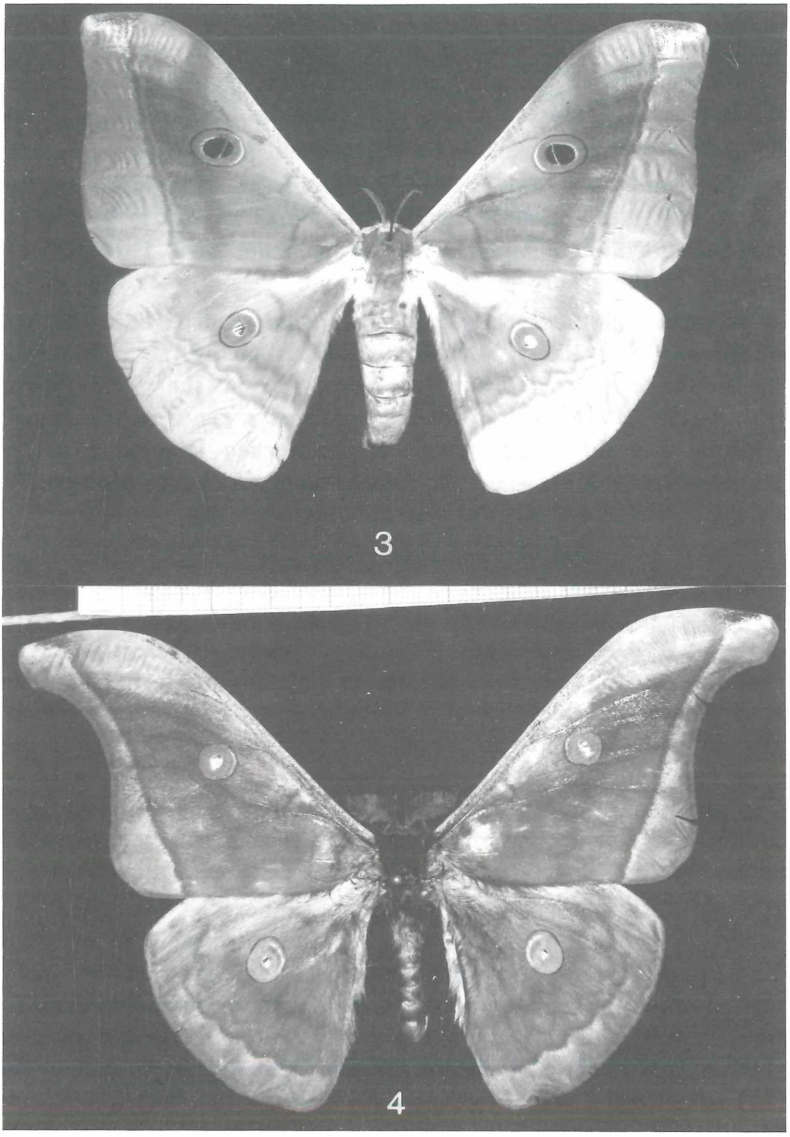
[3]: In BMNH there are a few specimens from North India, Assam, which may belong to *A. (A.) platessa* as well; these differ slightly from the Burmese and Thai specimens.

©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at



Figs. 1 & 2: Fig. 1: Illustration of *Attacus jana* STOLL. (Phot. C. LEMAIRE ex lib. C. LEMAIRE.) **Fig. 2:** Holotype ♂ of *Antheraea jana platessa* ROTHSCHILD (in BMNH). (Phot. D. GOODGER, BMNH.)

©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at



Figs. 3 & 4: Fig. 3: Female syntype of *Antheraea jana fusca* ROTHSCHILD (in BMNH) (here designated as lectotype). (Phot. D. GOODGER, BMNH.) **Fig. 4:** Specimen of a species in the *frithi/celebensis* complex similar to STOLL's figure from Indonesia: Bali, Candi Kuning, 1200 m, 13./14. i. 1989, leg. D. & S. KOVAC, in coll. W. A. NÄSSIG. (Phot. W. A. NÄSSIG.)

©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at

Soc. **1913:** [without page numbers]; in BMNH), which is a colourful yellowish specimen, appears to be a female colour variant of *andamana*. Such yellowish forms are unknown in the continental and Sundanian *platessa*. Therefore I tentatively consider *Antheraea (A.) andamana* to be a distinct, though closely related, species.

The name *jana* now enters into synonymy in the *frithi/celebensis* group; it may later possibly replace the name *surakarta* MOORE 1862 as the oldest available name of the group from Java. I do not intend to change anything here prior to a revision.

The placement of the species *platessa* within the subgenus *Antheraea (Antheraea)* (most likely in the same subgroup of the *paphia/frithi*-group as the *frithi/celebensis* complex, i.e. in the *frithi*-subgroup) follows NÄSSIG (1991), who divided the extensive genus *Antheraea* HÜBNER [1819] into three subgenera: *A. (Antheraea* HÜBNER [1819]*)*, *A. (Telea* HÜBNER [1819]*)*, and *A. (Antheraeopsis* WOOD-MASON 1866*)*, based on larval and ♂ genitalia morphology.

ROTHSCHILD described another *Antheraea* taxon in the same issue of Novitates Zoologicae: *Antheraea jana fusca* (Novit. Zool. **10:** 311; type locality Borneo). As this taxon is based on two female syntypes (examined, in BMNH; see footnote 2) I preferred to select *platessa* as the valid name (first reviser's choice; new synonymy) to fix the identity without doubt. The identity of a female is usually more difficult to determine with certainty in *Antheraea (Antheraea)*. On the basis of present knowledge, I do not think that there are valid subspecies in *A. (A.) platessa*, although there seems to be some (clinal?) geographical variation. The conspecifity of ROTHSCHILD's taxa is not in doubt. The syntype of *fusca* figured here (Fig. 3) is designated as lectotype.

Diagnosis: Males of *A. (A.) platessa* can best be identified by the strongly developed dark medial band of the forewing, the wavy outer fascia (especially the postmedial fascia), and the contrastingly yellowish apical triangle, females by the strongly wavy outer fascia and the ground colour, which is always brighter than, but similar to that of the males. It is likely that the female specimen figured by ALLEN (1981: pl. 14) is in fact a female of another species in the *frithi*-subgroup, not that of *A. platessa*. HOLLOWAY's (1987) plate 7, fig. 14 shows a very reddish female, but this specimen seems to be a real *A. platessa*, as far as we know presently. The females figured by BARLOW (1982) and LAMPE (1984, 1985) are surely true *A. platessa*.

The species *A. platessa* is on average much less variable than other members of the *frithi*-subgroup (the ground colour is always brownish,

©Entomologischer Verein Apollo e.V. Frankfurt am Main; download unter www.zobodat.at

not yellow, orange, or red); bright specimens may be bleached by light.

Biology: Unknown. The species is generally rare and has evidently not been reared in captivity. Ova (and often specimens) sent to Germany by Dr E. W. DIEHL from Sumatra and expected by him to be "*Antheraea jana*" (= *A. platessa*) always turned out to be different species, generally *A. (A.) gschwandneri* NIEPELT 1918, a species of the *frithi/celebensis* complex which can easily be confounded with *A. (A.) platessa* on Sumatra, especially in the female sex.

References

ALLEN, M. G. (1981): The saturniid moths of Borneo with special reference to Brunei [including appendix by J. D. HOLLOWAY, pp. 121–126]. – Brunei Museum J. **5**: 100–126.

BARLOW, H. S. (1982): An introduction to the moths of South East Asia. – Kuala Lumpur (the author); 305 pp., 50 pls.

HOLLOWAY, J. D. (1987): The moths of Borneo, part 3, Lasiocampidae, Eupterotidae, Bombycidae, Brahmaeidae, Saturniidae, Sphingidae. – Kuala Lumpur (Southdene), 200 pp. + pls.

ICZN (1985): International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, third edition, adopted by the XX General Assemby of the International Union of Biological Sciences. – London (Intern. Trust Zool. Nomencl./BMNH). 338 pp.

LAMPE, R. E. J. (1984): Die Saturniiden der Cameron- und Genting-Highlands in West-Malaysia (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae). – Neue Ent. Nachr. **11**: 2–15 + 8 pls.

——— (1985): Malayan Saturniidae from the Cameron & Genting Highlands. A guide for collectors. [English translation of LAMPE 1984.] – Faringdon (E. W. Classey), 16 pp. + 8 pls.

NÄSSIG, W. A. (1991): New morphological aspects of *Antheraea* HÜBNER and attempts towards a reclassification of the genus (Lepidoptera, Saturniidae). – Wild Silkmoths '89, '90 (eds. H. AKAI & M. KIUCHI): 1–8.

PAUKSTADT, U., & PAUKSTADT, L. H. (1991): Reisen und entomologische Aufsammlungen auf Celebes (Indonesien). 2., spezieller Teil: Saturniidae (Lepidoptera) von Celebes. – Nachr. ent. Ver. Apollo, Frankfurt/Main, N.F. **12** (1): 17–27.

PINRATANA, A., & LAMPE, R. E. J. (1990): Moths of Thailand, vol. one, Saturniidae. – Bangkok (Brothers of St. Gabriel in Thailand/Bosco Offset), v + 47 pp. + 44 col. pls.

ROTHSCHILD, W. (1903): Some new butterflies and moths. – Novitat. Zool. **10**: 309–312.

SCHÜSSLER, H. (1933): Saturniidae, in: E. STRAND (ed.), Lepidopterorum Catalogus, part 56. – Berlin/s'Grevenhage (Junk).

Address of the author:

Dipl.-Biol. Wolfgang A. NÄSSIG, Zoologisches Institut der
J. W. Goethe-Universität, Siesmayerstrasse 70,
D-6000 Frankfurt am Main, Fed. Rep. Germany